

# Lubbock's Light

The Newsletter of Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

*And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light — Genesis 1:3*

## 10 PROPOSITIONS FOR TEXAS FREEMASONRY

This month, we continue with Brother Lance Kennedy's 10 Propositions for Texas Freemasonry.

### 2. Aristocrats of the Soul

Julius Evola, the author of *Revolt Against the Modern World* once wrote: "The American mind has limited horizons, one conscribed to everything which is immediate and simplistic, with the inevitable consequence that everything is made banal, basic and leveled down until it is deprived of all spiritual life. Life itself in American terms is entirely mechanistic."

I believe Evola's sentiment is expressed in many ways, one of which is the casual manner that many Texan Masons approach Freemasonry and its meetings. More specifically, many Ma-

sons in Texas choose to wear extremely casual clothing to lodge meetings. Very rarely do lodge officers correct these brothers and remind them of the sacred nature of the Craft. I rarely see actual dress codes spoken of or enforced. Perhaps the leveling nature of American society has rendered all dress codes "judgmental." They affront the "come as you are" narrative proffered by many in our society.

A basic dress code that would require a coat and tie (at a minimum) would reintroduce the aristocratic and many virtues that Masons are supposed to inculcate. It would help our members take pride in being Masons. It would signal to the outside world, and more especially potential initiates, that we are engaged in serious business. "How one appears before the Lodge is a sign of how much you value both the brethren

## PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

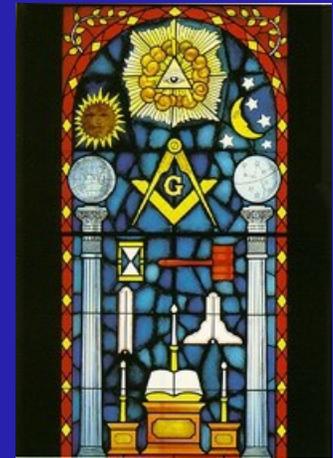
Our District Deputy Grand Master Kevin Rush will deliver his second message from the Grand Master in September.

A reminder to echo the thoughts of the Grand Master. Proper dress for a stated meeting is business casual at the minimum. PLEASE, no shorts, worn out jeans, flip-flops, etc. It is a sign of respect for our institution to be properly dressed at our stated meetings and degree conferrals.

Make plans now to attend this year's Officer

Leadership Training to be held at the Scottish Rite. Participants in Officer Leadership Training, lead their Lodges with greater confidence, efficiency, and effectiveness. The program will begin on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and finish around 10:00 p.m. Saturday will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the morning session at 8:30 a.m., Lunch at Noon, afternoon session at 1:00 p.m., and conclude with a Q&A session directed to the Grand Lodge Trustees at 5:00 p.m. A short break, and then a sit-down dinner at 6:00 p.m. will follow, with our R\_W\_

***"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."***

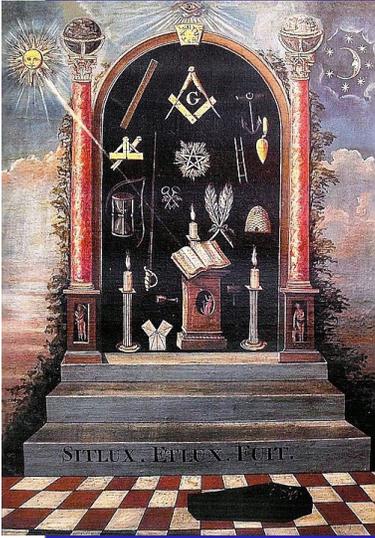


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## 10 Propositions for Texas Freemasonry—*con't*



and the Craft. In most lodges in the world, a dark suit and tie is the minimum required to gain admittance. It's what the brethren expect from each other in an observant Lodge, and it certainly adds to the notion that a Masonic meeting is not just another night out, but a special event, worthy of being considered as special as each of us should believe Masonry to be. Additionally, dignity expressed outwardly through dress, serves as a superstructure, helping to enhance that dignity that can only be created from within."

### 3. Leave the Gavel Be



My next proposal relates to the governmental structure of the Grand Lodge of Texas. I believe the current power dynamic has the unintended consequence of weakening the office of the Grand Master, making any long-term strategic plan untenable, and creating a permanent power base in the Grand Secretary, which in my estimation, runs afoul the Ancient Landmarks.

Under the current arrangement of the Grand Lodge of Texas, the seat of power in the Texas Grand Lodge is the Grand Secretary, not the

Grand Master. While the Grand Master is the de jure center of power in Grand Lodge the Grand Secretary is the de facto power nexus. This situation is caused by the annual rotation of the Grand Master and the virtual lifetime tenure of the Grand Secretary. I suspect that this arrangement is not only related to the annual rotation of Blue Lodge officers but is also reflected in the unique arrangement of the executive of the State of Texas.

Following the War Between the States, Radical Republicans elected Union General E. J. Davis as Governor of Texas. Under the Reconstruction constitution, the governor wielded incredible power and controlled a virtual secret police force. Davis has been oft described as the most tyrannical governor in US history. In 1874 Davis was forcibly removed from office and the Texas constitution was revised so that the governor would never be able to become a tyrant again.

Under the revised constitution the governor was stripped of many of his powers; the lieutenant governor would not only be the second highest office in the executive branch but would control the Texas Senate and the state's budgeting process. Many commentators suggest that the lieutenant governor's position in both the executive and legislative branches, more especially as the leader of the Legislative Budget Board, makes him the most

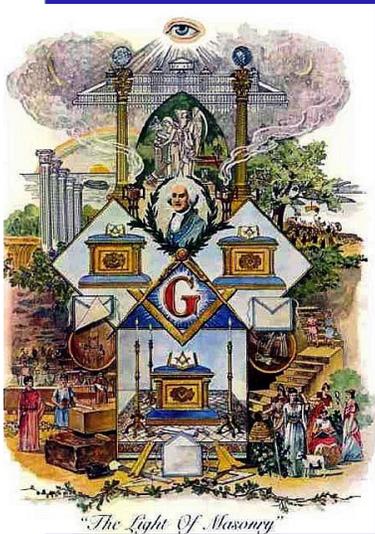
powerful figure in Texas government. The governor's office may come with more prestige, but it does not necessarily come with more power. This situation is familiar to many Texas Masons that study the politics of Grand Lodge.

One may contend that Texas' post-Civil War history has little to do with the current arrangement between the Grand Master and Grand Secretary and that this situation reflects Masonic tradition (i.e. the annual rotation of lodge officers). I would respond that while it is a common arrangement it is not necessarily the only arrangement or the most productive one. For instance, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts elects its Grand Master annually but traditionally allows one man to govern for three years before he is replaced. Likewise, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England often sits in the Grand East for decades.

If the Grand Lodge of Texas is going to implement strategic plans to stave off financial and membership collapse it must accordingly allow one man to the office of Grand Master for more than one year at a time. He would be able to see a plan to fruition instead of passing it off to the next occupant of the office who may not hold his views, talents, or priorities.

### 4. Academia

This proposal is the most needed addition to the family of Texas Freemasonry: Aca-



***"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"***

*G. Washington*

## 10 Propositions for Texas Freemasonry—*con't*

demetic lodges.



Academic lodges are lodges that are nominally affiliated with a college or university and limit its members to those that are students, alumni, faculty or staff of their respective universities. Such lodges have not only the common affinity found between all Masons but also the added cement of collegiate pride. Not only that, having a Masonic lodge actively involved in university life and in close proximity to the student body creates a conduit for young men to be exposed to Freemasonry and become Masons.

Firstly, I will address a common objection to the creation of academic lodges in Texas. I have heard it said on numerous occasions that academic lodges will stem the flow of college-aged men into nearby Blue Lodges. My response is simple: this concern is based on a poverty mentality and not grounded in fact. Lodges surrounding college campuses may attract college students but their doors are not being broken down by a stampede of students seeking our Degrees. I would also mention that the vast majority of college students leave their respective

collegiate communities and move elsewhere; why would traditional Blue Lodges want to create Masons that simply move away? Academic lodges are not as concerned with this fact since their broad geographic character is an integral part of their appeal. In short, there are plenty of young men on our college campuses to fill each and every Blue Lodge, however most Blue Lodges are not tapping into that source.

I tried to form two separate academic lodges in Texas, one for UT-Austin and another for Southern Methodist University. Both ideas were shut down by the then-Grand Secretary for being “elitist” like “The Harvard Lodge.” Chance had it that I attended Harvard and became a member of The Harvard Lodge, which is an exemplar of not only academic lodges but also a model for any lodge wishing to attract successful Millennials into their ranks.

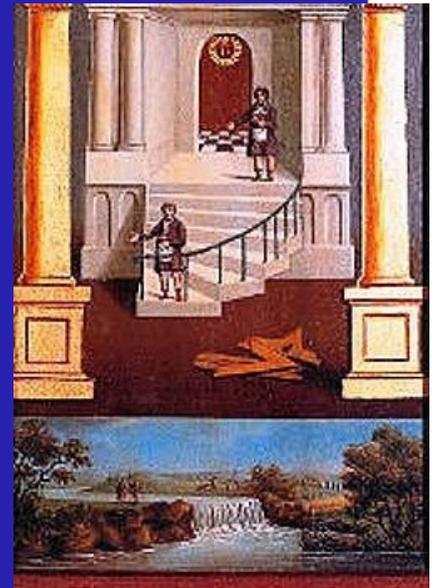
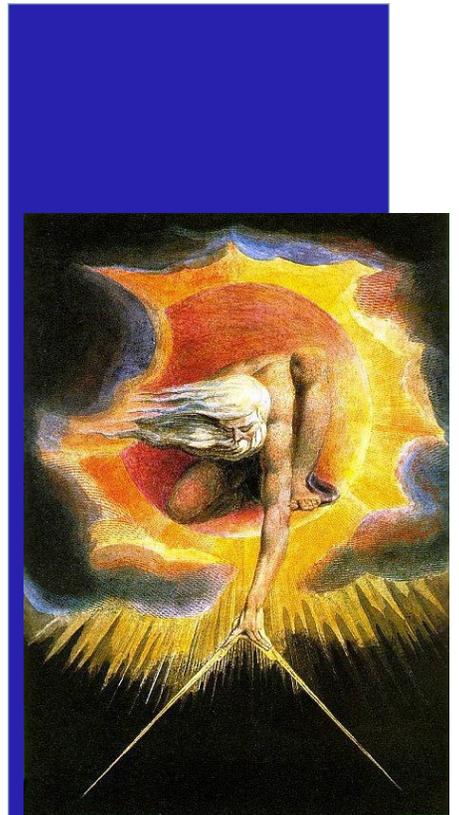
While Texas’ Masonic leadership may not see any benefit or need of academic lodges, many grand lodges do. The United Grand Lodge of England’s Apollo Lodge at Oxford and Isaac Newton Lodge at Cambridge have been extremely successful in attracting young men into Freemasonry and retaining them as they depart their respective campuses. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts founded the first academic lodges in the US such as my own The Harvard Lodge, MIT Lodge, and Boston University Lodge.

Other academic lodges have been founded in the US and other nations: Patriot Lodge (George Mason University), Colonial Lodge (The George Washington University), University of Washington Lodge (University of Washington), and University Lodge (University of Toronto).

I believe that the success of academic lodges such as The Harvard Lodge and other should dispense with any arguments offered against their founding in Texas. Any suggestion that a Masonic lodge should not limit its members to those of a particular collegiate affiliation is not in line with the long Masonic history of specialty lodges. If Aggie brothers want to form a lodge and limit their membership to those who graduated from Texas A&M you will not find this Longhorn complaining.

### To Be Continued Next Month

Lance Kennedy is a writer, military officer, attorney, Ivy League graduate, and seventh generation Texan residing in Austin, TX. The preceding is not an endorsement by Lubbock Lodge or their monthly news-letter. It is a multipart series offered to stimulate discussion in lodges, concur with the author’s viewpoint or offer alternative views. Reprinted with permission from MyFreemasonry.net



***“Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves.”***

*Rudyard Kipling*



**WORSHIPFUL MASTER JERRY HENDRICK**  
*From the East*

"So mote it be" is a ritual phrase used by Freemasons. It was also used by the old church, and ancient pagans, but is now adapted by Wiccans. It means "so may it be", "so it is required", or "so must it be", and may be said at the end of a prayer in a similar way to "amen". The phrase appears in the Halliwell or Regius Manuscript, the earliest known document relating to a society of Masons in England dating from the first half of the 15th Century."

It is customary in contemporary English to end prayers with a hearty "Amen," a

word meaning "So be it." The word mote is an archaic verb that means "may" or "might," and traces back to Old English. The phrase "So mote it be" means "So may it be," which is the same as "So be it."

"So, why do Masons end their prayers with 'So mote it be'?" The answer goes back to the Regius Poem of about 1390 AD, the oldest known Masonic document. It is one of the Old Charges or used by early Freemasons to regulate their trade. It has a legendary history, regulations to guide the Mason trade and rules of manners and moral conduct



**SENIOR WARDEN HEATH MORGAN**  
*From the West*

There are times that the kindness and generosity of our fraternity overwhelms me. As you know there is a Rainbow chapter open up now in Lubbock, of which my daughter belongs. The Hilltop Committee presented a donation to the girls worth a substantial sum. At the time, the girls had \$2 in their account. Because of that generosity, the girls have made a couple of trips and have others planned. When they travel, the girls meet other Rainbow girls from across the state as well as deepen their knowledge in

their memory work. It is something to see when a girl, in a beautiful white dress, squares her corners while walking the floor and give a lecture from memory. To those of you that have come out to watch the girls, have donated, and otherwise supported us, I cannot express enough thanks. To those of you that have not had the chance, we welcome all Master Masons in good standing and their wives. Come watch the future of our fraternity unfold in front of you. Guard well the West Gate.



**JUNIOR WARDEN JUSTIN ROBBINS**  
*From the South*

Before a candidate can take part in the degrees of masonry, he must first be deemed qualified by the lodge. Let's take an in depth look at article 397. (434) pertaining to the religious beliefs of a candidate.

The Grand Lodge of Texas states, "A firm belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures is indispensably necessary before a candidate can be initiated, but this Grand Lodge does not presume to prescribe any canonical books or what part thereof are inspired" (The Grand

Lodge of Texas, 2013, p. 168). While the importance of this law is further explained within the degrees themselves, the law makes no mention of any specific religion.

This is one of the most important and unique aspects of freemasonry because it provides men with similar beliefs the opportunity to gather in unity without the divisive conflict that often accompanies differences of religion. I struggle to think of any other place in our society today where such unity exists as freely as it does within a lodge room.

***"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip."***

*Will Rogers*



**FROM THE SECRETARY HARROLD LOVELESS**  
*Taking Care of Business*

There is not a lot to report for this month. Annual Returns have been sent in to Grand Lodge along with the IRS form 990N verification, so we are legal for another year. Our Vanguard Application is completed and will be delivered to RW Kevin Rush DDGM within the next week.

There are a couple of events of note in September. First, on September 8th prior to our Stated meeting, we will be having our Past Masters Dinner. The dinner will

be at 6:30pm followed by our meeting at 7:30pm. Second, there will be an Officer Leadership Training held September 22nd - 24th in Lubbock at the Lubbock Scottish Rite. If you are interested in attending, registration forms are available on the Grand Lodge website or see me. Deadline for registration is September 1st.



**FROM THE SENIOR DEACON BRANDON GOULD**  
*Visiting Brothers and Prospects*

We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended our stated meeting for July. At our stated meeting, we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM, and Glen Ashcraft from Yellowhouse Lodge #841; and Jason Jones from Alvin Lodge #762.

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, August 11th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.



**FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD LUIS RAMOS**  
*Food, Flowers & Frolic*

Father God, show us the wisdom from the rite of disalcation, one shoe on and one shoe off, that not everything in life comes to us with great ease. Teach us from circumambulation that life is a pilgrimage with many starts and stops along the way. Remind us through the rite of destitution that we need to be charitable. Encourage us to learn from salutation the need for lawful authority, the importance that some should lead

while others follow. Cause us to know from investiture that we should strive to keep our behavior upright so as not to soil our character and morality. Help us to live by these rites and thus to improve our lives. In Your Name and for Your sake we pray. Amen.



**Upcoming Menu for August:**

- Grilled chicken with poultry gravy
- Lemon broccoli
- Baked red potatoes
- Dessert
- Asst Drinks.

**Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.**

*Mark Twain*

# LUBBOCK LODGE AUGUST CALENDAR



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

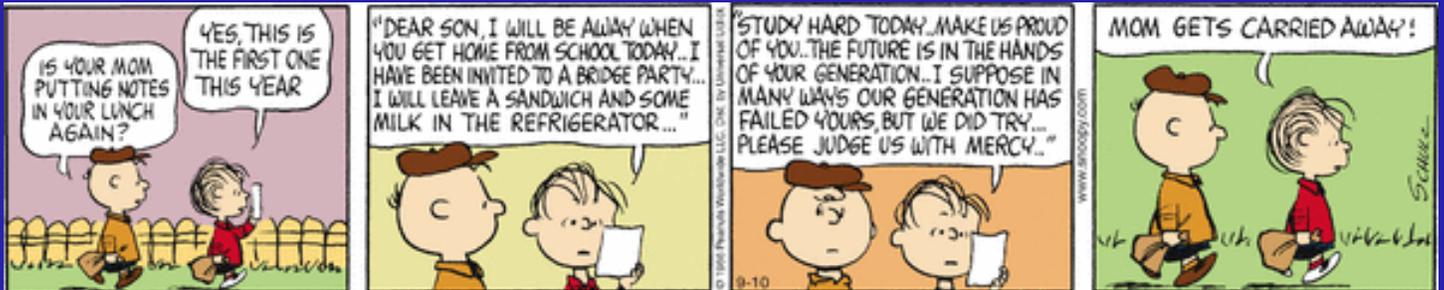
Masonic Calendar

## August 2017

By-Laws due the GS Office NLT September 1  
Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due NLT September 15

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 FLOOR PRACTICE Wolfforth Stated Mtg	2	3	4 Yellowhouse Stated Mtg	5
6	7	8 FLOOR PRACTICE Lubbock OES	9	10 Abernathy Stated Mtg Rainbow Girls	11 <b>STATED MEETING</b>	12
13	14 Emma Lodge	15 FLOOR PRACTICE Mackenzie Stated Mtg Vanguard Apps Due Annual Rtms Rpt Due	16	17 Slaton Stated Mtg Freedom OES	18	19 Daylight Stated Mtg
20	21 Crosbyton Lodge	22 FLOOR PRACTICE	23 Scottish Rite	24 Chapter Rainbow Girls	25	26
27	28 Commandery	29 FLOOR PRACTICE	30	31		
		July 2017 S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			September 2017 S M T W T F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

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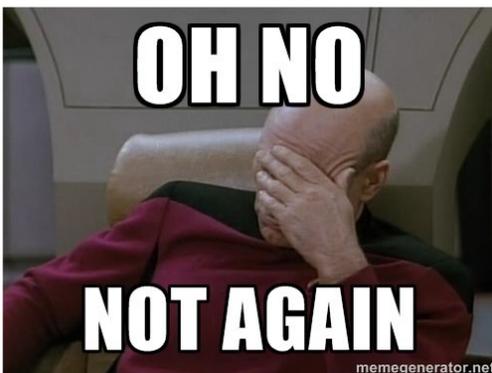
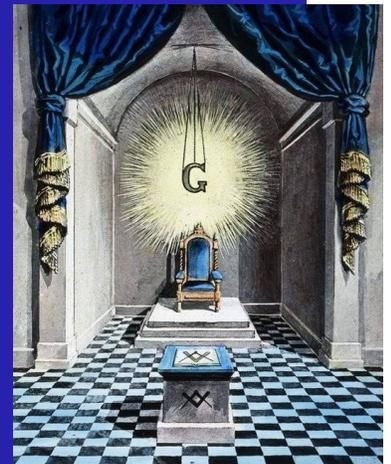
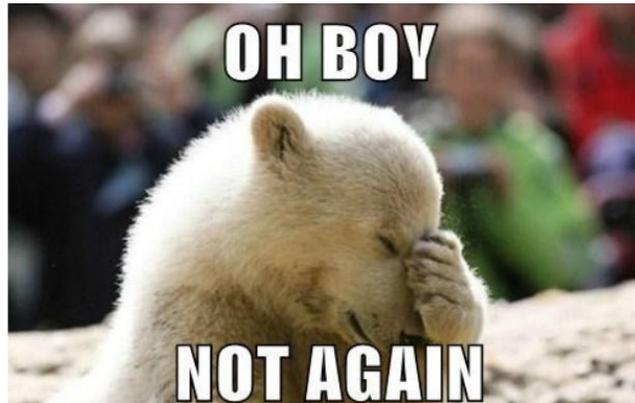
*“Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind”*

*Andrew Jackson*

# LUBBOCK LODGE #1392 IN ACTION



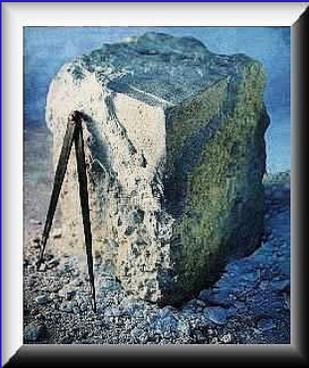
School starts August 28 for LISD, Frenship,  
Lubbock Cooper,  
South Plains College & Texas Tech  
School starts August 21 for LCU



*“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

LUBBOCK  
MASONIC LODGE  
#1392  
MASONIC DIST 93-A



For more information visit  
[lubbockmasoniclodge.org](http://lubbockmasoniclodge.org)



## SICKNESS AND DISTRESS



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

*“The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it.”*

*Blair Gable*

## This Month's Brothers' Birthdays

**Eric Martin 8/1**  
**Billy Dyess 8/7**  
**Luis Ramos 8/9**  
**Brian Harrison 8/11**

**Tom Lusk 8/23**

4539 BROWNFIELD DR  
LUBBOCK, TX  
79410-1721

MEETINGS:  
SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH  
MONTH, 7:30 P.M.  
MEAL: 6:30PM  
FLOOR SCHOOL:

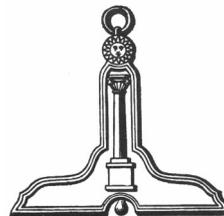


## *The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen, PM*

### THE LEVEL

The Level is a symbol of equality. We do not mean equality in wealth, social distinction, civic office, or service to mankind; but, rather, we refer to the internal, and not the external, qualifications. Each person is endowed with a worth and dignity which is spiritual, and should not be subject to man-made distinctions. Masonry recognizes that one man may have greater potential in life, service, or reward, than another; but, we also believe that any man

can aspire to any height, no matter how great. Thus, the Level dignifies labor and the man who performs it. It also acknowledges that all men are equal without regard to station. The Level also symbolizes the passage of time.



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